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27 Jan 1988

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DEFIACES FORM 26.8

Talking Points for the DCI's Luncheon with Secretary Shultz

28 January 1988

Defense Minister Rabin continues to defend his tough new policy--first implemented in early January--allowing Israeli troops to wield riot truncheons to beat and subdue Palestinian demonstrators.

--The policy is calculated to instill fear in Palestinian ringleaders believed to have been emboldened by the success of the 25 November glider attack in northern Israel which killed six Israeli soldiers.

--Rabin remains confident that the aggressive army measures--despite evidence of widespread indiscriminate beatings--will maintain relative calm in the territories.

--Sporadic violence, however, continues in the West Bank, Arab East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip--and new protests are almost certain when Israel expels the five remaining Palestinians already sentenced to be deported. [REDACTED]

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The current Palestinian unrest may signal the emergence of a younger, more radical generation of Palestinian leaders and the declining influence of Jordan's King Hussein and PLO Chairman Arafat.

--Militant students, fundamentalists, and street gangs have been at the forefront of the disturbances while traditional leaders have been unable to exercise much control over younger demonstrators.

--Most of the demonstrations have been unorganized, spontaneous protests reflecting Palestinian frustration with the Israeli occupation and the PLO's ineffective leadership, but recently there have been attempts to coordinate further actions.

--The PLO has tried so far without success to reassert its revolutionary credentials and influence in the occupied territories by attempting new cross-border

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attacks into northern Israel; the Israelis intercepted and killed all three members of a commando squad last week near the northern town of Qiryat Shemona. [REDACTED]

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In Israel, Prime Minister Shamir and other Likud leaders continue to insist that the Palestinian unrest must be controlled before the peace process can be pursued.

--Shamir to date has encountered only insignificant criticism from fringe elements in Likud.

--Foreign Minister Peres--although frustrated by Shamir's lack of initiative toward the Arab-Israeli peace process--has publicly admitted he lacks the Knesset majority required to force an early national election and is unlikely to withdraw the Labor Party unilaterally from the national unity coalition.

--Dovish groups--such as Peace Now which held a mass demonstration in Tel Aviv over the weekend that may have attracted 50,000-80,000 participants--are unlikely to have any immediate impact on government policy. [REDACTED]

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Secretary Schultz, 28 January 1988

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